



April 26, 2010

Report to the Town Council

Submitted by Deborah Barchi

I know I talk a lot about the Friends of the Barrington Library in these reports to the Town Council, but I think it's important because the Friends play such a vital part in their funding and support of the library's programs and services. For example, for many years we have had numerous requests to fund an ongoing Barrington Library book club. We haven't been able to do so, primarily because of lack of staff. However, the Friends have recently agreed to fund an ongoing book club for the library which will meet once a month. The club is running a three month trial to see how the format will work and what would be the best times to meet, but already there is great support and excitement about the club which will meet once a month, for ten months of the year, excluding the summer. Because this book club is library organized and run, participants can be certain they will be reading challenging and well written books, including new hot titles as well as much loved older favorites and that the discussions will explore the deeper themes and the characters in ways that stay focused on individual thought and varied interpretations. We are very grateful to the Friends for yet again coming to our rescue with the funds for a much-requested library program.

Following the literary theme, we are also happy that we are growing an enthusiastic audience for another book-related program. This program which might best be called a book sharing club, brings together a variety of readers to discuss briefly what some of their favorite books have been. Participants get the chance to tout their discoveries and perhaps even better, get to listen to other enthusiastic readers promote their recent favorites. After the program the library staff post the reader's favorites on our website, so others will get ideas on that all-engrossing question for readers, "what should I read next?"

For those who are interested in writing plays, we have a very exciting playwriting workshop taking place on Wednesday evenings starting April 28 and continuing through May 26. The event is open to teens and adults who have always wanted to write a play. It will be lead by Dave Rabinow, a graduate of the Trinity Rep Conservatory and an accomplished playwright whose work has been produced in Rhode Island, New York, Boston, and Los Angeles. Yes, you can read a book to try to learn the basics of playwriting, but how much better to actually work on your own short play in the company of a talented teacher and other students who will read your work and encourage you to succeed! This program, which normally would cost many hundreds, if not thousands, if taken in a college or adult learning program, is free at the library. And who knows? We may be nurturing the next Arthur Miller or Neil Simon!